

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus characterized by comprising:
 - 5 a determiner for determining whether image data contains specific information for at least one block extracted from the image data; and an image processor for executing predetermined processing for the image data which is determined by said
 - 10 determiner to contain the specific information.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the specific information is predetermined image data, and said determiner performs the determination on the basis of at least the one block and the predetermined image data.
- 15 3. The apparatus according to claim 2, characterized in that said determiner comprises a detector for detecting, from entire image data, position information related to a position where the specific information is contained, and determines whether the specific information is contained
- 20 on the basis of the position information detected by said detection means.
4. The apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that
25 said detector detects the information related to the position using position detection image data obtained by decreasing resolution of the image data, and

said determiner determines presence/absence of the specific information from the image data.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, characterized by
further comprising an image scanner for generating the
5 image data.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the image data is image data for printing.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, characterized by further comprising a printer for printing the image data.

10 8. The apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that said processor executes processing of converting density or brightness of the image data as the predetermined processing.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in
15 that said processor erases the image data as the
predetermined processing.

10. The apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the block has the same size as that of a block having a predetermined size as a unit of image data transfer in said image processing apparatus.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, characterized in that said determiner comprises detection means for detecting, from entire image data, position information related to a position where the specific information is contained, specifies at least the one block from the image data on the basis of the position information detected by

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said detection means, and determines for at least the one block whether the specific information is contained.

12. The apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the block is a band obtained by segmenting the image 5 data along a direction of a line of pixels.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, characterized in that the band is a block obtained by segmenting the image data at a line having uniform color and density.

14. An image processing method characterized by 10 comprising:

the determination step of determining whether image data contains specific information for at least one block extracted from the image data; and

the image processing step of executing predetermined 15 processing for the image data which is determined in the determination step to contain the specific information.

15. The method according to claim 14, characterized in that the specific information is predetermined image data, and the determination step comprises performing the 20 determination on the basis of at least the one block and the predetermined image data.

16. The method according to claim 15, characterized in that the determination step comprises the detection step 25 of detecting, from entire image data, position information related to a position where the specific information is contained and comprises determining whether the specific

information is contained on the basis of the position information detected in the detection step.

17. The method according to claim 16, characterized in that

5 the detection step comprises detecting the information related to the position using position detection image data obtained by decreasing resolution of the image data, and

10 the determination step comprises determining presence/absence of the specific information from the image data.

18. The method according to claim 14, characterized by further comprising the image read step of generating the image data.

15 19. The method according to claim 14, characterized in that the image data is image data for printing.

20. The method according to claim 19, characterized by further comprising the image formation step of printing the image data.

20 21. The method according to claim 14, characterized in that the image processing step comprises executing processing of converting density or brightness of the image data as the predetermined processing.

22. The method according to claim 14, characterized in 25 that the image processing step comprises erasing the image data as the predetermined processing.

23. The method according to claim 14, characterized in that the block has the same size as that of a block having a predetermined size as a unit of image data transfer.

24. The method according to claim 23, characterized in
5 that the determination step comprises the detection step
of detecting, from entire image data, position information
related to a position where the specific information is
contained, and comprises specifying at least the one block
from the image data on the basis of the position information
0 detected in the detection step and determining for at least
the one block whether the specific information is
contained.

25. The method according to claim 14, characterized in
that the block is a band obtained by segmenting the image
15 data along a direction of a line of pixels.

26. The method according to claim 25, characterized in that the band is a block obtained by segmenting the image data at a line having uniform color and density.

27. A computer program executed by a computer to perform
20 image processing, characterized by comprising:

a program code of the determination step of determining whether image data contains specific information for at least one block extracted from the image data; and

25 a program code of the image processing step of
executing predetermined processing for the image data which

is determined in the determination step to contain the specific information.

28. The program according to claim 27, characterized in that the specific information is predetermined image data, 5 and the program code of the determination step comprises performing the determination on the basis of at least the one block and the predetermined image data.

29. The program according to claim 28, characterized in that the determination step comprises a program code of the 10 detection step of detecting, from entire image data, position information related to a position where the specific information is contained and comprises determining whether the specific information is contained on the basis of the position information detected by the 15 program code of the detection step.

30. The program according to claim 29, characterized in that

the program code of the detection step comprises detecting the information related to the position using 20 position detection image data obtained by decreasing resolution of the image data, and

the program code of the determination step comprises determining presence/absence of the specific information from the image data.

25 31. The program according to claim 27, characterized by further comprising a program code of the image read step

of generating the image data.

32. The program according to claim 27, characterized in that the image data is image data for printing.

33. The program according to claim 32, characterized by

5 further comprising a program code of the image formation step of printing the image data.

34. The program according to claim 27, characterized in that the program code of the image processing step comprises executing processing of converting density or brightness

10 of the image data as the predetermined processing.

35. The program according to claim 27, characterized in that the program code of the image processing step comprises erasing the image data as the predetermined processing.

36. The program according to claim 27, characterized in

15 that the block has the same size as that of a block having a predetermined size as a unit of image data transfer.

37. The program according to claim 36, characterized in that the program code of the determination step comprises a program code of the detection step of detecting, from

20 entire image data, position information related to a position where the specific information is contained, and comprises specifying at least the one block from the image data on the basis of the position information detected by the program code of the detection step and determining for

25 at least the one block whether the specific information is contained.

38. The program according to claim 27, characterized in that the block is a band obtained by segmenting the image data along a direction of a line of pixels.

39. The program according to claim 38, characterized in 5 that the band is a block obtained by segmenting the image data at a line having uniform color and density.

40. A computer-readable storage medium which stores the computer program of claim 27.